## Abstract

## Ring Binder Mechanism

The invention concerns a ring binder mechanism for receiving loose, holed written materials. The ring binder mechanism includes a housing (10) having spring-elastic housing flanks (28) which can be urged open. Two carrier rails (20) are provided in the housing, which are pivotable along their facing longitudinal edges in the manner of a knee-joint against the spring effect of the housing flanks (28). At least two half-rings (16) are provided longitudinally spaced apart and rigidly connected with each of the carrier rails (20), and which pairwise form a ring Further, at least one blocking element (32) is provided slideable via operating element (18) essentially parallel to the linkage axis (22) relative to the housing (10) and to the carrier rails (20) which, in the closed position, protrudes into a free space (34) formed between the carrier rails (20) and the housing wall (13) with blockage of the pivot movement of the carrier rails (20) and, in the open position, permits the pivot movement of the carrier rails (20). According to the invention at least one blocking element (32) is pre-tensioned in the direction of the closed position under the influence of a closing spring (36).

(Fig. 1b)